

Shmanners 431: Southern Funerals

Published October 25th, 2024
[Listen here on Maximum Fun](#)

[theme music plays]

Travis: Hello, internet! I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

Teresa: And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

Travis: And you're listening to Shmanners.

Teresa: It's extraordinary etiquette...

Travis: For ordinary occasions. Hello, my dove.

Teresa: Hello, dear.

Travis: How are you?

Teresa: Well, one day I won't have post-nasal drip.

Travis: I'm watching you try not to cough.

Teresa: Some—someday.

Travis: Sheer force of will.

Teresa: That will happen.

Travis: [singing] Someday...

Teresa: That will be a really great day.

Travis: [singing] Won't have nasal drip. [speaking] Now, if I'm correct, today we're going over The Handbook for the Recently Deceased.

Teresa: [laughs] No, but that would be great.

Travis: Yeah. That's from, uh, Betelgeuse. Well, you're going over—what are we going over?

Teresa: We are going over a book called Being Dead is No Excuse: The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Hosting the Perfect Funeral.

Travis: Ooh!

Teresa: Uh, by Gayden Metcalfe...

Travis: Calf?

Teresa: And Charlotte Hays.

Travis: Yeah, there's an E at the end. Yeah, you're right.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Now, I see that you have quite a few post-it notes in this book.

Teresa: Yeah, I do.

Travis: Are these from you, or from Alexx?

Teresa: No, Alexx vets all the books, but I read the pieces that she tells me to read, because she finds the best bits.

Travis: It's like you guys have a weird kind of book club.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I bet this is a thing that people in book clubs wish they had, where they had somebody read the book first and leave post-it notes that are like, "These are the parts they're gonna talk about. Make sure you read this page and this page. You'll be fine! Bring some cheese and some crackers and read these four pages and you'll be fine!"

Anyways. I don't read, as you know.

Teresa: No, you don't.

Travis: I can. But I choose not to.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I almost slipped up the other day. We were talking about this because later this afternoon I'm flying to London, and I was talking about what am I gonna do on this long flight? And Bebe was like, "Take a big book with you."

And I almost said, "Reading is boring."

Teresa: [laughs] To our—to our eight-year-old.

Travis: [simultaneously] To our seven-year-old. Yeah, to our—

Teresa: Well, eight-year-old.

Travis: Our second grader. Reading? Pbthhh! And I caught myself and I was like, "Mmm. Maybe... "

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And instead I think I fixed it, 'cause I do listen to a lot of, like, audio books and stuff. But the truth is, and I said to her, like, "A book I would have to carry and put it in my bag, and it would be heavy. But if I have an audio book then I'm fine."

She went, "Ah, okay, great."

But I didn't have the heart to say to our also ADHD child to my ADHD dad, like, "Hey, listen, kid. Eventually, you won't have to worry about it."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I'm not required to read things a lot. I gotta do player's handbooks. I gotta do the occasional website. You'll be fine! [laughs quietly] Anywho, that's not what we're talking about.

Teresa: I thought that this book was appropriate, seeing as how we are still in the spooky seasons.

Travis: Indeed. I don't think people say that anymore.

Teresa: They don't?

Travis: I think it's what they kids might call "cringe" now.

Teresa: Oh. Well.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: It's not quite spooky. Because everybody dies.

Travis: Is it ooky?

Teresa: Is it kooky?

Travis: Is it freaky or deaky?

Teresa: I don't know.

Travis: Okay. Now, this is interesting, though, because when we talk about—I think that funerals especially perfectly fit what this show is about, right? Because when we talk about etiquette and manners, it's less about judging other people, from my perspective, and more about a how-to guide to, like, navigate this thing, right?

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: And I think that organizing a funeral is most likely a time where you want to make sure it all goes smoothly, but you're also fairly distracted and maybe not, like, thinking everything—like, getting all the details right.

Teresa: And it's also a highly specifically cultural event.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: Right? Because different areas have different traditions. Different—I mean, it even goes into detail in the book here, like, different kind of church traditions. Um, even within, like, the two or three different churches within this town that they're talking about, right?

Travis: Okay. Let's get started.

Teresa: Well, first of all, I want to say, when are the times in your life that you have, quote, "Eaten off the good china?"

Travis: Huh. Uh... listen. This is sounding like I'm making a joke, right? To think of something. But my memory's so bad, I think in pictures, and I'm trying to picture it. Um... maybe... like, Thanksgiving, with more of my, like, Ohio and southern grandmothers on both sides, I would say. There were probably some older relative funerals when I was a kid.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Um, but mostly, never.

Teresa: Let me paint you a picture. Uh—

Travis: We don't have time for that. We gotta record our podcast!

Teresa: [laughs] In my family's formal dining room—first of all, we are not southern. We are Appalachian. I mean, as far as Ohio valley goes. Anyway.

Travis: Yeah. I mean...

Teresa: Northern Appalachian, how's that? Northern Appalachian.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So there is a formal dining room. We have a china hutch and we have a side table. In the china hutch is the good china that is my parents' wedding china. It is silver inlaid. It cannot go in the dishwasher. It must be hand-washed.

Travis: Or let the dog lick it clean. It's fine.

Teresa: Nah. And then, um, in the sideboard is—the top drawer is all silver, silverware silver.

Travis: Just a big block of silver. Pure ingots.

Teresa: [laughs] And so I recall on occasion being asked before Thanksgiving—my mom has Christmas china, because she's—she loves those dishes, right? Boomers. What are you gonna do.

Travis: I don't know if loving dishes is a boomer thing.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I think it's just "My mom loves dishes." I don't think you need to—

Teresa: Okay. Alright.

Travis: You don't need a footnote.

Teresa: Alright. Um, so for, like, Thanksgiving, or I remember yes, we did get it out I believe for my... my nearest memory of my grandmother's funeral. And the first thing that you have to do is you gotta polish that silver.

Travis: Hmm.

Teresa: That is something that occurs in this book over and over and over again. In fact, it says "The silver has most likely been specially polished for the occasion. Polishing silver is the southern lady's version of grief therapy. We'd be hard pressed to tell you how many of our friends and their mothers have greeted the sad news of a death in the family with going straight to the silver chest and starting to polish every single thing inside."

Travis: You know, there's really something to that, right? Because, I mean, beyond the fact that, you know, the, uh... kind of nature of talking about southern ladies polishing silver. I've worked enough, like, jobs and restaurant jobs where, you know, part of my job at a couple of them was, like, rolling silverware, you know? Putting 'em in the napkins.

And there's something very meditative about a repetitive mechanical action that kind of takes, like, kind of... lets your brain split into a part that's doing the thing and a part these allowed to feel—or if what's what you're looking for—just allows your brain to just focus on this repetitive mechanical task, and then nothing else. Right?

Teresa: I agree.

Travis: Where this is kind of the thing with meditation too, of—because I have a very distractable mind and a very, you know, whatever. It's like, one of the methods is to think about the breathing and focus on the breathing, right? So you have something to think about, but not something that requires a lot of thought.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: To let you process that stuff.

Teresa: Um, so... in this book, she speaks about the Mississippi Delta. Um, and so this is—I would say that it is, um... it's highly specialized, a lot of the things in this book.

Travis: So, okay. So this is like, we're talking Mississippi Delta, so we're talking, like, fancy south, right?

Teresa: Yeah. Yeah.

Travis: What I think of of, you know, like, uh... you know, you have the houses, and the big—"the houses." Yes, Travis. I mean, like, the big houses and stuff that you would see in, like, *Gone with the Wind* kind of deal.

Teresa: I believe so, yes. Um, Greenville, Mississippi.

Travis: Okay. [exaggerated southern accent] Old southern. High southern.

Teresa: Um, so it talks about how you do the funeral, and then you do the grave site, right? And then you'd have the reception. And a lot of this book focuses on the reception.

Travis: Okay. So this isn't including, like, the viewing, right? Or a wake.

Teresa: Oh, no, it is.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Uh, I think that this custom... is that there may be open casket before the funeral or during the funeral.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Not a separate attendance.

Travis: Okay. 'Cause that's how I think of them. Of like, you have, like, the viewing on Saturday where it's like, open house, people come through, "Oh, I'm sorry for your loss," "Oh, thank you, they were great."

And then Sunday is service for anybody who wants to come to the service, right? And that's a much more—we sit down, we have things that go—readings, whatever.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Then family and, like, close friends and invited people to the graveside, and then reception. Okay.

Teresa: Right. So in this tradition it seems as though the viewing and the funeral are one and then the other, the same day.

Travis: Okay. Got it.

Teresa: And so... a couple of things I want to talk about. The first one being, what do you think about the food at receptions?

Travis: Um, I mean, I think of... [sighs] see, this is tricky. 'Cause now I'm trying to think what you—what it says in the book. 'Cause I think of it as like, a buffet style, maybe potluck.

Teresa: Yes. Potluck style. Everybody brings a covered dish. And it's not necessarily for the family later, right? This is for the reception.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: 'Cause I can think of—if for example, like, the head of a large family dies, maybe they bring food for the rest of the—of the kin to, like, ease their burden over the next few days. Like a meal train, right? Or like you might do for a birth, right? Where you bring different dishes for people to...

Travis: This is why you should have two sets of, like, you know, not Tupperware—well, maybe Tupperware, what-have-you, right? Where every Thanksgiving I go out, 'cause I like to cook and I like to make too much food, and I will buy, like, a cheap set of, like, "Okay, great. Here's just, like, 20 of these with 20 lids."

Teresa: To-gos.

Travis: Right. To-go things. And then it's like, those are the ones I'm gonna send home with people, and I don't care about them ever making it back you know?

Teresa: [laughs] Right.

Travis: I hate the feeling of being like a loan shark for Tupperware. Where I'm like, "[gruff voice] Yeah, it's been a while now, the juice is runnin'! Better give me that Tupperware back. Hate for something to happen to yeah." Right?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Just, let it go. Let 'em be gone.

Teresa: I always think of cold cut sandwiches. I think that is something that, um, you know, it's easy to kind of, like, walk around with a sandwich. Doesn't really require that you sit in the way that, like, a soup or maybe a salad you would have to sit. Um, let's see. I also think of, like, those butter, like, cookies. Right? That's something that says very much, like, reception, to me.

Travis: And then the tin can be used to hold your sewing goods, or a bunch of pennies, maybe.

Teresa: Here are the top 10 funeral foods, according to this book. Tomato—

Travis: Spicy jalapeno nachos.

Teresa: No.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Tomato aspic with homemade mayonnaise. I think that's a southern thing.

Travis: It is. I just don't like that much mayonnaise. in anything. Ugh.

Teresa: Fried chicken.

Travis: Yeah. 100%.

Teresa: Stuffed eggs.

Travis: Uh, do you mean, like, deviled eggs?

Teresa: Uh, it... I believe that is what they are talking about.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, it may be more like, you know, like, stuffed like deviled and loaded, right? Like, with, like—

Travis: Or maybe you just don't wanna say the word "devil" at a funeral.

Teresa: [laughs] Maybe.

Travis: Ooh.

Teresa: Uh, butter beans.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Uh, a couple kinds of cake.

Travis: Which isn't like beans with butter. It's a kind of bean.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Uh, caramel cake—

Travis: Kind of green bean—it's, like, similar to—or am I thinking of wax beans?

Teresa: I think you are thinking of wax beans.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Uh, rolls.

Travis: Sure, yeah.

Teresa: Banana nut bread.

Travis: Hmm.

Teresa: Coconut cake, which again, is a very southern cake.

Travis: Yeah, but both of those these days, it's not very inclusive of people with, like, any kind of food restriction.

Teresa: That's true.

Travis: Coconut and things that would go into banana nut bread.

Teresa: Yeah. Party potatoes, which are potato salad, which is cold potatoes with mayonnaise.

Travis: Do you prefer mayonnaise. or mustard?

Teresa: I prefer warm potato salad, German style potato salad.

Travis: That wasn't what I asked. I asked if you liked it with mayonnaise. or mustard.

Teresa: [laughs] I guess... I do like a little mustard in there.

Travis: I like mustard, yeah. Like a whole—like a whole grain mustard in my potato salad. Very German.

Teresa: Uh, and tenderloin. So you would have to carve it, I think.

Travis: Yeah... tenderloin, though, man. Here's the thing. It's easy for you to do it wrong, to dry it out, you know?

Teresa: Yeah?

Travis: I think so.

Teresa: What about alcohol? Do you associate alcohol with funerals?

Travis: I mean, I do.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Um... yeah, you know, I kinda do. Right? But—and it's—this is all cultural things and not as, like, an endorsement. By which I mean, like, the culture of drinking and not, like, this is... connected to any one culture. But, like, the idea of sadness giving way to grief giving way to, like, memories and talking about the person, like, I just associate that with alcohol. I associate that probably thanks to, like, pop culture and movies and stuff.

But, like, it's also... I don't think there's anything wrong with someone who has, you know, the ability to, like, drink a certain amount and stop, right? Somebody who doesn't have an issue with alcohol being like, "I am sad, and tonight I will be drinking." You know, I think that that's fine. That doesn't bother me. But... I don't know, man. I'm also 40 years old now and, like, one drink and I feel like crap. So who can say?

Teresa: [laughs] Well, something that is mentioned in this book, for those who do imbibe, they will often take a toddy. Which I know as specifically like a hot whiskey, right? Tea in it or not. Um...

Travis: But you didn't used to know it was hot whiskey. 'Cause I think I didn't realize that maybe a hot toddy was southern or American until we went to I think it was Scotland the first time and you asked for a hot toddy and they did not know what you were talking about.

Teresa: They had no idea.

Travis: Which is so funny to me, 'cause if you had told me before that, hot toddy, I'd be like, "How British. How very... Scottish, how Ir—it's one of those."

Teresa: Toddy is about a medicinal drink, is the idea. Right?

Travis: 'Cause—oh, from prohibition? Was it prohibition sneak-around?

Teresa: I'm not certain if it's a prohibition sneak-around. I mean, alcohol-as-medicine is. Right? But the idea is that it's for your nerves. It is for your body to help you somehow. And so a toddy—

Travis: Short for Todrick.

Teresa: [laughs] No. [laughs quietly] Alright. Um, so a toddy can really be any sort of drink served as medicine.

Travis: Hmm.

Teresa: Um, and I think that—I had always associated—I think hard liquor is what I thought of when I thought about drinking at a funeral. I don't really picture wine or beer, although I suppose you could do, again, sherry, which I think is kind of like—has a medicinal kind of quality to it, right?

Travis: At mine, I want people poppin' champagne.

Teresa: Oh!

Travis: I want people—but once again, I think this is another difference of having grown up in West Virginia, I very much associate beer. Right? Of—kegs even, right? Of, like, I don't know. If you're going to be drinking a lot for a long time, I'd rather people were drinking beer, you know, than whiskey.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Or, like, something like that. You know what I mean? Make a big—just a big trash can full of punch. Just make some trash can punch.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And then maybe set off some illegal fireworks. Go four-wheelin'. But before—no. Don't go four-wheelin' while you're drunk. Please, please don't do this. But what you should do is stick around for more after this word from another Max Fun show.

[theme music plays]

[music plays]

Speaker 1: This season on The Adventure Zone: Abnimals. Get ready for a brand new crime-fighting trio, here to protect the anthropomorphic muscular animal citizens of River City. Featuring Justin McElroy as Axe-O-Lyle, the firefighting axolotl. Clint McElroy as Roger Mooer, the debonair cow of mystery. Griffin McElroy as Navy Seal, the raw seal that has never served in the armed forces. And Travis McElroy as every other swole critter in River City. This swear-free Saturday morning cartoon-inspired story airs every Thursday on Maximumfun.org, or wherever you get your podcasts.

[music and ad end]

[music plays]

Emily: I'm Emily Fleming.

Jordan: And I'm Jordan Morris!

Emily: We're real comedy writers.

Jordan: And real friends.

Emily: And real cheapskates.

Jordan: We say why subscribe to expensive streaming services when you can stream tons of insane movies online for free?

Emily: Yeah, as long as you're fine with 25 randomly inserted super-loud car insurance commercials.

Jordan: On our podcast, Free with Ads, we review streaming movies from the darkest corner of the internet's bargain bin.

Emily: From the good to the weird to the holy look at Van Damme's big ol' butt.

Jordan: Free with Ads! A free pod about free movies that's worth the price of admission.

Emily: Every Tuesday on Maximumfun.org, or your favorite pod-spot.

[music and ad end]

Travis: Okay. We're back. Now, you're planning my funeral, right? That's what this episode's about?

Teresa: No?

Travis: What?

Teresa: You said that you're never gonna die—

Travis: That's true.

Teresa: —because just because everybody has doesn't mean that you will.

Travis: Man, I'm so glad you're paying attention. That is true. That's the only way I get through the day, baby! That and all the plants I surround myself with! So tell me, Teresa. What's next in the planning of the perfect southern lady funeral?

Teresa: Well, we've talked a little bit about the reception planning. I want to talk a little bit about the service now.

Travis: Okay. You want A Mighty Fortress is our God.

Teresa: Yes! That's what I was gonna ask you!

Travis: Boom. Yes.

Teresa: What kind of hymns do you think are appropriate for a Delta funeral?

Travis: You want hymns that maybe use the same five notes over and over again. Maybe less, if you can. Not a big [unintelligible]. "[singing] A mighty fortress is our god." And then you can do another one. What's another one on there?

Teresa: Uh, Amazing Grace.

Travis: "[singing] Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound."

Teresa: And How Great Thou Art.

Travis: [hisses] How Great Thou Art and A Mighty Fortress is our God are so similar to me. Hold on. Uh... "[singing] How great thou art—" I don't know. It's something like that. It all ends up sounding a little bit too much chamber choir for me. But man, so much of growing up Southern Baptist and, like, looking at the hymns was like, I think we just did this one. Isn't this the same? No, this is a different one about... like, a hill or something? Or marching? Okay.

Teresa: Here's my experience. I actually was raised Catholic, and we went to the guitar mass. So—

Travis: You rebel!

Teresa: I know, right? So we were not—I didn't ever really do, like, the big organ and, like, the choir loft. My mom preferred that we go to the basement of the church, which had the guitar mass. Fully acoustic. I mean, I think that they did have, like, a... like, a keyboard, right?

Travis: Whoaaa!

Teresa: But we had up to three guitars at a time. And—

Travis: If the bad guy from Hunchback found out about this, he'd be so mad.

Teresa: I know.

Travis: What was his name? Frolo?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Frodo.

Teresa: No, Frodo! [laughs]

Travis: I think it was Mr. Frodo?

Teresa: Um, so I actually don't know a lot of these songs. I do know Amazing Grace because it's in kind of, like, the culture in the United States. I understand what that one is. But here's, um... Sweet Beulah Land.

Travis: Don't know that one.

Teresa: I've never heard of that. I don't know that one.

Travis: I don't know that one.

Teresa: Um, The King of Love My Shepherd Is. Do you know that one?

Travis: No, not off the top of my head.

Teresa: No? Um, what about On Eagles' Wings?

Travis: No. 'Cause what I'm thinking of—" [singing loudly] On the wings of love!"

Teresa: No. That's definitely not it.

Travis: And that's not it. That's not it.

Teresa: That's not it. So I don't know that I would be able to sing along, unless there was a hymnal that had actual, like, sheet music in it.

Travis: Uh-huh. But like I said, especially if you're at a Southern Baptist church, it's not—it's not challenging arrangements. [laughs]

Teresa: Oh, really?

Travis: It's very like, "[singing repetitive melody] Beep, beep, boop, boop. Beep, beep, boop, boop. Beep, beep—" It's something like that every time. They're not going for it. They're not on Eurovision, you know what I mean? They're just thin, like, if you can kind of go "uhhh," you're gonna be able to hit most of the notes.

Teresa: Oh, uh, here's why we haven't heard it. Sweet Beulah Land is a Methodist song.

Travis: Ohh.

Teresa: Having neither of us being raised Methodist.

Travis: Correct.

Teresa: I think that is probably why we don't know about it.

Travis: You're also, I'm just gonna say this, if it's anything like my Southern Baptist upbringing, you're gonna try to use the story of this person's life to kind of sneak in a Jesus message there. It's gonna be very much like, "Oh, this person was so great, so good. And you know... you know who else was great and good?" Or "And you know, I'm sure they'd love to see you in Heaven."

There's usually a little bit of that. And I've told my family, like, none of that for me. This day's about me!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: If you ain't talk about me?! I don't want you bringing up any of that stuff. It's about me.

Teresa: So then there's a bunch of other different things that often occur at funerals, the actual—

Travis: Fistfights, and...

Teresa: —service. [laughs quietly]

Travis: Oh.

Teresa: You know what I mean. Not that.

Travis: No, you usually have, like, readings.

Teresa: Readings and things.

Travis: And, yeah. Like, uh, maybe a biblical reading, maybe a poem.

Teresa: Um, but I think that it's important to say that—don't feel like you cannot attend a funeral just because it is in a church that you are not familiar with. Right?

Travis: Or if it's for a person you didn't know, and you don't know the family, you were just walking by and you see a reception happening—

Teresa: No. These are the jokes.

Travis: These are the jokes. Don't do that.

Teresa: Don't do that. Because you're not gonna be the only one, right? And if you were felt—if you were deemed by the bereaved to be in attendance at the funeral, they want you there even if you don't know the steps. You know what I mean? Right?

Travis: Yes. But I did just picture a ghost showing up like, "Make sure you show up, dude!"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "[spooky voice] I'll be so mad if you're not there! I don't care if you're Catholic!" Or whatever. That's what I was picturing.

Teresa: So there's often readings. There's sometimes a procession past the casket as well for anyone who would like to say a final goodbye. Um, I

believe if it is open. Um, although I have seen a kind of receiving line happen for a lot of these things, even if the casket is closed.

Travis: Yeah. And there will be pallbearers that carry it. It's not first come, first served. You don't wanna run up and try to grab it and be like, "I'm gonna carry it." They've already figured that out, guys.

Teresa: More jokes, more jokes.

Travis: Now, I will say this. Mostly the trickiest part, as someone who has attended not only a church service in the church I grew up in but several other denominations of churches, you will sit down and stand up at the wrong time. It's just gonna happen. There will be times where you got to clap and everybody else says "Amen." And times when you say "Amen" and everyone else goes to clap. That's fine. That's the whole reason people go to church, to judge you for that.

Teresa: [wheezes]

Travis: So don't let that bother you. That'll be fine. Otherwise, you're gonna be okay. They give you programs.

Teresa: They do.

Travis: There's usually, like, a listing.

Teresa: There usually is a program telling the order of the events. Um, you know, the last funeral that I attended was actually in a funeral home instead of a church, although there was a pastor there. Um, and we didn't have to stand up at all. Sat the whole time. So... there.

Travis: Is it clear that I don't like funerals? Has that come across?

Teresa: I think it is.

Travis: In the jokes?

Teresa: There's a lot of jokes this episode!

Travis: I just—I don't like funerals.

Teresa: I'm sorry. I thought you were prepared.

Travis: No, hey, I am. Listen. I am prepared. But I'm still me.

Teresa: [laughs] Alright. Um, so... I would have to say that I think that... it is important, even though it is a sore subject, to talk about what it is maybe you would wish, or your family traditions.

Travis: I've tried to bring this up to my brothers so many times and they're like, "Nope." [laughs] "Nope."

Mostly I think it's because they know that what I am about to say is going to be unreasonable to a degree that they're not sure if I'm joking or not.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And I worry that at this point in my life, 'cause I haven't kept track, that I've left conflicting instructions with different people. And when I do they're gonna be like, "I'm pretty sure he wants to be shot in the sun."

And then they'll go like, "No, they said—he said fed to a shark. What are you talking about?"

And then they're gonna have to feed me to a shark and then shoot the shark into the sun.

Teresa: Well, maybe you need to make a—write down some very specific instructions so that we can be sure.

Travis: To send people on a—on a wild chase throughout the world to find my hidden treasure! And then at the end, what is it? It's a picture of me. I was the treasure!

Teresa: If that's what you desire, my dear.

Travis: You're not gonna do it, are you?

Teresa: No, I'm not.

Travis: If I... if I left instructions for a hunt around the world for my last clues, my will and testament, you'd be like, "Oh, Travis"

Teresa: Yeah. Probably.

Travis: That's fair, you know, 'cause funerals are for the living.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: So that would be actually wild if—'cause, like, if you blew our money on flying to, like, Istanbul or whatever for a picture of me, [through laughter] I'd be very upset at you!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: That's a good call. That's a good call. This is why I could never die. What's—ahh, I don't wanna leave too much chaos behind.

Hey, everybody. Thank you so much for listening. And thank you to our researcher, Alexx, without whom we could not make this show. Thank you to our editor, Rachel, without whom we could not make this show. Thank you to Teresa, without whom I could make the show, or do anything. And thank you to, uh, you, for listening! We could do the show without you. Don't think we couldn't! I'll do it!

Teresa: I won't.

Travis: I'll do it.

Teresa: I won't do it.

Travis: But I'll feel silly the whole time. Um, let's see. Oh, I'm—if you're listening to this on Friday or Saturday, I'm currently in London. At MCM London, me and Dad are doing stuff at that convention. You can see us there.

Um, at the beginning of November we're doing some My Brother, My Brother, and Me and Adventure Zone live shows in Indianapolis and Milwaukee. You can come see those. And then at the end of November, the week of Thanksgiving, I'm gonna be in New York doing Twenty-Sided Tavern, a live D&D experience off-Broadway show. So get tickets for that. Um, and I'm very excited about that. What else, Teresa? What am I forgetting?

Teresa: We always thank Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Also, thank you to Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook group, Shmanners Fanners.

If you love to give and get excellent advice from other fans, go ahead and join that group today.

As always, we are taking your topic submissions, your questions, your queries, your idioms. Please send those to shmannerscast@gmail.com, and say hi to Alexx, because she reads every single one.

Travis: And that's gonna do it for us, so join us again next week.

Teresa: No RSVP required!

Travis: You've been listening to Shmanners...

Teresa: Manners, Shmanners! Get it?

[theme music plays]

[chord]

Maximum Fun.

A worker-owned network...

Of artist-owned shows...

Supported directly by you.